

ADVANCING AMERICA'S DIPLO-  
MATIC RELATIONS WITH THE  
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2021*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to promote the strategic partnership between the United States and the Arab Republic of Egypt. I find it of the utmost importance to advance diplomatic relations with a nation that has proven many times to be a dedicated friend to the United States and our allies.

It's no secret that the Middle East is a complicated region with divisions deeply rooted in ancient conflict dating back thousands of years. Egypt has been a proven partner to the U.S. foreign policy goals in the region, with the hopes to end these conflicts and bring peace to a region that so desperately craves it. Without Egypt's partnership, the fight against terrorism and the strive for curbing proliferation would not be possible. I've always said that trust is a series of promises kept. The Arab Republic of Egypt has proven time and time again that they can be a trusted ally and friend to the people of the United States.

Egypt has been, and will continue to be, a beacon of hope for all nations across the Middle East and North Africa and a leader for prosperity, culture, and education for other nations to follow. Using this foundation to advance interfaith tolerance and freedoms, I have long been inspired by the Egyptian people, their freedoms, and their diligence to make the region and world a better place for their children. I am of the belief that the Egyptian government and the Egyptian people have played a vital role in the success of American foreign policy in the region over the recent decades.

Under the leadership of President Trump, the U.S. and Egypt became even closer allies in the fight against terrorism. I hope that the Biden administration will support the Egyptians as much as President Trump did during his time in office.

Regional peace is a goal of not only myself, but the people of the United States, Egypt, and many other nations across the globe. Therefore, it's critical that we recognize the sacrifices and efforts that Egypt has played in the regional peace agreements that have surfaced under recent years. Ever since the 1979 peace treaty with Israel, Egypt, and the United States, both nations have proven to be effective regional partners.

Madam Speaker, I'm thankful for the close friendship that the U.S. shares with Egypt. I hope that we can continue to advance this great relationship with our friends in the Middle East. I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the strategic partnership between our nations and to continue to advance our shared goals going forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA  
HELSEL

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Virginia Helsel on re-

ceiving the Blair County Chamber of Commerce's George Award, which recognizes an individual's volunteer efforts that have improved life in Blair County. A nurse by trade, Virginia started God's Little Offerings in her garage to help Blair County families in need. Though the organization originally provided only holiday meals, it has expanded to assist with other necessities.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Virginia on this accomplishment and thank her for her service to the Blair County community.

RECOGNIZING LEONOR TOMERO  
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND  
APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE  
OF THE SECRETARY OF DE-  
FENSE

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Ms. Leonor Tomero for her years of service to the United States Congress and congratulate her on her appointment to serve as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Leonor has committed her professional career to advancing dialogue on nuclear non-proliferation and arms control within the non-profit world, amongst our international allies and partners, and most notably, with the Departments of State and Defense. She has been a strong advocate for taking a common-sense approach to rethinking our reliance on nuclear weapons—one of the only true existential threats to humankind today. Though she started her congressional career as a Senate staffer, something we try not to hold against her, Leonor has spent the last 10 years as a valuable member of the House Armed Services Committee's professional staff.

From 2010 to 2021, Leonor supported the Strategic Forces Subcommittee's oversight of national security space, nuclear weapons, nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear clean-up, and missile defense issues. Leonor's work with committee members helped the committee conduct proper oversight of both programmatic and policy aspects of strategic deterrence and increased understanding regarding the delicate balance of strategic stability. Leonor's commitment to advancing space from a national security standpoint culminated in the establishment of the Space Force, which despite the previous administration's boasting, was truly a bi-partisan effort that emanated from the HASC Strategic Forces subcommittee.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House Armed Services Committee, I extend our deepest appreciation to Leonor for her dedicated service to the committee, the Congress, and the military and civilian personnel of the Armed Forces. We wish her well as she continues her public service at the Pentagon with the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2021*

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, on March 11, 2021, I missed the vote on the Motion to Recommit for H.R. 8. If present, I would have voted no.

CELEBRATING ELISA DE LA VARA

**HON. RUBEN GALLEGOS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2021*

Mr. GALLEGOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the faithful service and hard work of Elisa de la Vara, who will retire this month after nearly fifty years of service to the people of Arizona. Born and raised in the small border community of Somerton, Arizona, Elisa has dedicated her life to following her father's example by giving back to her community.

Elisa most recently served as Chief Community Officer for the Arizona Community Foundation. In this role, she oversaw the investment of nearly half a billion dollars in grant funding to community organizations across Arizona and brought diverse voices and perspectives together through her work with the Latinos Unidos Initiative, the Black Philanthropy Initiative, the Asian Pacific American Women's Giving Circle, and the Native American Initiative. She also led the Foundation's affordable housing initiative and rural philanthropy work, where she developed innovative solutions to make sure more Arizona families had access to housing.

Elisa has also served in many other roles including as District Director for my distinguished predecessor, Congressman Ed Pastor, Special Assistant to Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, Executive Vice President for Chicanos Por La Causa, and Assistant to the President of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Elisa's work often focused on housing. She opened and led Fannie Mae's Arizona Office and she developed and hosted Arizona's first Spanish language real estate television show on Univision entitled *Bienvenido a Mi Casa*, which was devoted to informing and educating viewers on the rights and responsibilities of home ownership, including the mortgage process.

Throughout her distinguished career, Elisa rightfully earned many awards and recognitions. I would like to share my deep appreciation to Elisa for her years of service to our Congressional District, to our community, and to all of Arizona, and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BYRON DONALDS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2021*

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I was meeting with National Guard personnel in my